

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

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P 202055Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0517

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS

REF : SD 2038

1. THE LATEST PROVISIONAL ELECTORAL RETURNS RELEASED BY THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD (JCE) SHOWED THAT SOME 1,058,064 VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS -- 904,763 FOR PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND 159,493 FOR PARTIDO DEMOCRATA POPULAR (PDP) CANDIDATE LAJARA BURGOS. THE JCE FIGURES INDICATE THAT SOME 48 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, DID NOT CAST BALLOTS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION NATURE OF ELECTION TO THE CONGRESS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ACCURATELY HOW MANY DEPUTY SEATS WILL GO TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES, IT APPEARS THAT THE PARTIDO REFORMISTA (PR) WILL HAVE SOME 85 DEPUTY SEATS WHILE THE OTHER SIX WILL GO TO THE PDP. THE 27 SENATE SEATS WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES (PR AND MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE LA JUVENTUD - MNJ).

4. COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS CRITICISM OF THE JCE'S SLOTH IN PRODUCING DEFINITIVE ELECTION RETURNS; PRESTIGIOUS EL CARIBE NOTED THAT ON SATURDAY, MAY 18, ONLY ONE PERSON WAS WORKING IN THE JCE COUNTING VOTES. AL-
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THOUGH THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE

ELECTIONS, THE DRAWN-OUT VOTE COUNT HAS SERVED TO KEEP THE
STORY ON THE FRONT-PAGES LONGER THAN MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE
OCCURRED AND HAS KEPT THE POT BOILING.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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